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ACTION: NONE INFO: CHASS-E ( ) : UDPS-5: USSR/E: USSR/F:  
USSR/I: USSR/M: USSR/SHA: PEN/SC: RES/SA: FILE: RF: UDPN-N: OPA/II-2:  
CI/FL: CR/E: D/FMIS-2: EPS/EG-2: EUN-3: IAO/CAS-3: NIC/AG: NIO/USSR:  
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ZNY CCCCC ZZM  
R 261519Z JAN 81  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE #ASHOC 2071  
INFO RUDKMLQ/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 5050  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1747  
BT  
C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0395

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E.O. 12065: RDS-1: 1/26/01 (HAMILTON, WILLIAM C.) OR-M  
TAGS: DEPR, SHUM, UR, SO, US  
SUBJECT: SWEDISH GOVERNMENT VIEWS OF HALLENBERG HEARINGS

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 0274 (W) STOCKHOLM 0170 (C) FBIS 151756Z JAN 81

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY. THIS TELEGRAM REPORTS THE SWEDISH FOREIGN  
MINISTRY'S VIEWS OF THE RECENT HALLENBERG HEARINGS IN  
STOCKHOLM AND THE MINISTRY'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM  
THE USG ABOUT ONE OF THE "WITNESSES" WHO APPEARED AT THE  
HEARINGS. END SUMMARY.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S HALLENBERG EXPERT (GÖRAN BERG)  
TOLD EMROFFS JANUARY 21 THAT THE MINISTRY REGARDS THE INFORMA-  
TION PRESENTED AT THE RECENT PUBLIC HEARINGS IN STOCKHOLM  
WITH SERIOUSNESS AND IS BEGINNING THE ARDUOUS TASK OF INDE-  
PENDENTLY ASSESSING THE INFORMATION. BERG SAID SUCH AN  
ASSESSMENT WAS THE PREREQUISITE FOR DETERMINING WHAT,  
IF ANY, ADDITIONAL MEASURES BY THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT  
ON THE HALLENBERG CASE WERE APPROPRIATE. THE MINISTRY  
WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF

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SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
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THE "EVIDENCE" OFFERED AT THE HEARINGS:

-- ANDRE SCHIMKEVITSCH'S CLAIM TO HAVE SHAKED A CELL WITH WALLENBERG IN LJUBJANKA PRISON IN DECEMBER 1947;

-- THE STATEMENT (HEAD BY LENA BJORCK-KAPLAN) OF ONE LEO MILTON, WHOM CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE IN THE USSR HAD NEWS OF WALLENBERG AS RECENTLY AS FEBRUARY 1980, WHEN WALLENBERG WAS SUPPOSEDLY SENT TO KIROV FOLLOWING A TOOTH EXTRACTION;

-- BJORCK-KAPLAN'S OTHER INFORMATION FROM A PSEUDONYMOUS "MR. IVANOV," A RUSSIAN LAWYER, THAT THE DIRECTOR OF A PRISON CAMP IN MURDOVIA DRASTED IN 1972 THAT ONE OF HIS IMPORTANT FOREIGN CHARGES INCLUDED A SWEDISH WHO HAD BEEN IN SOVIET CAMPS MORE THAN 20 YEARS; AND

-- SIMON WIESENTHAL'S INFORMATION THAT, ACCORDING TO A CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT, SOVIET GENERAL KUPRIANOV DIED IN 1979 FOLLOWING INTERROGATION BY THE KGB ABOUT STORIES IN THE WESTERN PRESS CONCERNING SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE 1950'S WHEN KUPRIANOV SAID HE MET WALLENBERG IN THE SOVIET PRISON SYSTEM. (THE MATERIALS HANDED OUT AT THE HEARINGS AND DOUGHED TO EUR/NE CONTAIN FURTHER DETAILS.)

4. THE MINISTRY, BERG SAID, HAS COMMITMENTS FROM BJORCK-KAPLAN AND WIESENTHAL TO DISCUSS WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE INFORMANTS THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFIDENTIAL INTERVIEWS WITH THE MINISTRY STAFF. HE MINISTRY HAS ALREADY ARRANGED TO INTERVIEW SCHIMKEVITSCH. BERG COMMENTED THAT THE SWEDISH WALLENBERG ASSOCIATION'S HANDLING OF SCHIMKEVITSCH WAS "UNFORTUNATE." GIVEN THAT HE HAD NOT APPEARED BEFORE AND DID MAKE SOME BIZARRE STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS, THE MINISTRY KNOWS PRECIOUS LITTLE ABOUT HIM, BERG SAID, BUT DOES BELIEVE HIM TO BE THE ADOPTED SON OF A FRENCH SCULPTOR NAMED LIPSCHITZ AND SUSPECTS HE TRAVELED TO SWEDEN IN 1958 VIA HELSINKI, WHERE HE IS THOUGHT TO HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY.

5. BERG ALSO SHARED WITH EMBUSFFS SOME OF HIS "PERSONAL THOUGHTS" ON THE RESULTS OF THE HEARINGS. HE BELIEVES THAT THE DOWN SIDE OF THE HEIGHTENED INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY SURROUNDING WALLENBERG WILL BE A PROFUSION OF INFORMATION FROM UNRELIABLE SOURCES--PERHAPS MOTIVATED OUT OF VANITY OR UNINFORMED EMOTION--THAT WILL MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE SORTING OUT OF WHAT IS AND IS NOT TRUE. THE SOVIETS, IF

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THEY ARE CLEVER. WERG SAID, MIGHT PROMOTE THE PROPUSION OF SUCH UNRELIABLE AND CONFLICTING INFORMATION. SO FAR THE TASS ARTICLE (REF C), WHICH WAS NOT CARRIED DUMES- TICALLY IN THE USSR, IS THE ONLY SOVIET COMMENT ON THE WALLENBERG HEARINGS IN STOCKHOLM, WERG SAID. THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCUSSION IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

6. ACTION REQUEST: WERG ASKED THAT WE SEEK FROM THE DEPARTMENT ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE CONCERNING SCHINKOVITSCH EITHER UNDER THAT NAME OR THE NAME "LIPSCHITZ." THE MINISTRY WOULD, OF COURSE, APPRECIATE IN PARTICULAR INFORMATION CONCERNING ANY CONTACT SCHINKOVITSCH MIGHT HAVE HAD WITH U.S. OFFICIALS IN HELSINKI IN 1950. AN EARLY REPLY WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

7. COMMENTS: IT IS OUR ASSESSMENT, BASED ON WERG'S EVALUATION AND THAT OF OTHER SWEDISH OFFICIALS, THAT IT CONTINUES TO BE APPROPRIATE TO TAKE OUR LEAD FROM THE GOS IN THE WALLENBERG CASE. THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE THING WE CAN DO AT THIS MOMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE QUIET, CAREFUL GOS EFFORTS TO CLARIFY WALLENBERG'S FATE IS TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR HELP IN FOLLOWING UP LEADS SUCH AS THE ONE MADE ABOVE. FURTHER STEPS MAY WELL BE APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY ONCE THE GOS HAS EVALUATED THE AVAILABLE TESTIMONY. WE WILL ALSO WANT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE WALLENBERG MOVEMENT'S EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE THAT WOULD ATTEMPT TO APPROACH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY. END COMMENT.  
HAMILTON

END OF MESSAGE

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